

Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

The Parks and Recreation Board of the City of Mesa met in a regular session at the Parks and Recreation office at 200 S. Center Street, Building 1, Mesa, on November 18, 2009.

Members Present:

Frank Alger
Don Goodrum
Connie Gullatt-Whiteman
Steve Ikeda
David Martinez
Matt Shaffer
Michelle Udall (teleconference)
Ron Wills
Marilyn Wilson

Staff Present:

Darla Armfield
Dawn Bies
J.D. Dockstader
Dale Furnas
John Goodie
Michael Holste
Robert Howerton
Cindy Hunt

Arnulfo Magdaleno
Aimee Manis
Andrea Moore
Roy Nunnally
Bryan Raines
Bob Skutnik

Members Absent:

Milt Fort, excused
Mark Yarbrough, excused

David Martinez, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Martinez asked if there was a motion for approval of the minutes from the September 9, 2009. Frank Alger made a motion to approve, Connie Gullatt-Whiteman seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes as written.

Mr. Martinez introduced Deputy City Manager Bryan Raines who presented Park Ranger Bob Skutnik with an Exceptional Customer Service Award for the 2009 Summer Hydration Program, which provided water to many of the City's park visitors. Bob was unable to attend the official award ceremony with the other Park Rangers.

Public Comments

Two citizens had questions about the communication towers at Rancho del Mar Park regarding the distance of the poles from homes and whether the towers would interfere with the transmission of existing services. Questions answered during discussion on communication towers (see below).

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman thanked the Parks Maintenance staff for working hard to keep Mesa's parks cleaned and maintained.

Check presentation from Mesa HoHoKams

Bud Page presented checks from the Mesa HoHoKams Foundation in support of sports programs and youth activities as follows:

- Aimee Manis accepted a \$5,000 check for the Making Waves Program
- J.D. Dockstader accepted a \$5,000 check for the Urban Fishing Program
- Cindy Hunt accepted a \$1,000 check for the Flag Football Program

Convene KaBoom! Play Committee

The KaBoom! Play Committee convened, which includes Russ Gillard, Bryan Raines, and Steve Ikeda. Andrea Moore told the Board the City of Mesa had been designated a Playful City USA through KaBoom! and shared with the Board the information that had been submitted on the City's proposal/application for Playful City USA designation. She asked for suggestions from the Committee and the Board for additional action items to promote play through the remainder of the fiscal year.

Suggestions from the Board included:

- Using signage provided to market Mesa, possibly at Gateway Airport; request additional signage
- Highlighting Playful City designation on websites for Mesa, the Foundation for Mesa Parks and Recreation, and the Mesa Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Playful City designation has been of financial value to Mesa, requested City apply again next year for designation
- Add Playful City logo to Fun and Fitness Mobile Unit trailer

Hear proposal and make recommendation on communication towers in city parks/facilities (Kingsborough Park, Rancho del Mar Park)

Dale Furnas, Management Assistant II, introduced Rulon Anderson from Clearwire to provide the Board with information about their proposal to place wireless communication towers at Kingsborough and Rancho del Mar Parks. Clearwire is proposing placing 72' stealth monopine poles at both locations. Ms. Furnas pointed out that staff is requesting a setback change request. She explained that if Clearwire were to meet all the required setback requirements (residential/street) the pole location would compromise the aesthetics of the park, therefore staff is asking for an exception to place the pole 20' from the sidewalk.

Ms. Furnas told the Board that letters had been sent out to neighbors surrounding the proposed sites with one email being received concerning the Rancho del Mar site.

Michelle Udall asked about the reason for a setback rule, whether it was for aesthetic or safety purposes. Ms. Furnas replied that it was for both reasons.

Matt Shaffer asked about the term of the lease agreement. Mr. Anderson replied that it was for a 30 year lease. He explained that technology changes may bring about changes to the pole sizes, number of antennas needed, etc.

Mr. Anderson spoke more about the safety risk of the poles. He stated that Clearwire had never had a pole fall and that they had received variances several times previously. Mr. Raines asked the height of the power poles next to the cell tower pole. Mr. Anderson answered that the power poles were 65' tall.

Citizen present asked a question regarding the distance of the pole from their home. Ms. Furnas replied that the poles were 150-180' from their home.

Citizen present asked whether this was a new cellular company placing a tower and whether the tower would interfere with the transmission of existing service. Mr. Anderson explained that the tower was a new tower for Sprint Wireless that would be offering service in competition with other wireless carriers, but that they were prohibited by the FCC from interfering with other service providers.

Ron Wills commented that from the pictures it appeared that the pole would stick out compared to other existing trees in the area. He asked the height of the existing trees in the area. Mr. Anderson estimated they were approximately 35'-40' tall. Ms. Furnas added that due to the setback change being requested final approval would be obtained through a hearing before the Planning and Zoning administrator or the Board of Adjustment.

Mr. Martinez asked for a motion to approve the recommendation for a communication tower at Kingsborough Park. Mr. Alger made a motion, Mr. Wills seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the recommendation.

Mr. Martinez asked for a motion to approve the recommendation for a communication tower at Rancho del Mar Park. Mr. Alger made a motion, Mr. Goodrum seconded and the Board voted 8-1 to approve the recommendation.

Discuss schedule for Fees & Charges for upcoming year

Ms. Furnas gave the Board the timeline information regarding fees and charges for the upcoming fiscal year 2010-11. Key dates included:

- 12/5/09 – First subcommittee meeting
- 1/5/10 – Second subcommittee meeting to finalize recommendations
- 1/13/10 – Fees & Charges recommendations presented to Parks Board
- 1/14/10 – Submittal of fee recommendation schedule to Budget Office
- 3/24/10 – Fee recommendations reviewed by City's Audit & Finance Committee
- 6/21/10 – Recommendations adopted

Ms. Wilson asked when the fees would be effective. Ms. Furnas replied that the fees are normally effective at the start of the next fiscal year. Mr. Raines added that there had been discussion regarding adding a non-resident fee for swim lessons in place prior to the start of the season and before the TimeOut brochure is published on the internet. Mr. Holste added that the non-resident fee would have to go before Council in February in order to be used for the upcoming swimming season.

Discuss Role of Parks Board

Mr. Martinez asked Ms. Moore to address the Board to define the role of the Parks and Recreation Board. Ms. Moore told the Board that the information in the report was the only information available currently; City Code information was included, as well as guidelines from the Parks Board web page.

The Board agreed they want to know about feedback received by Council after decisions are made by the Board. Board requested that public feedback be a regular part of Director Comments.

Discuss and make recommendation for Parks Board citizen communication

Robert Howerton made a presentation to the Board of the Parks Board web page with sample pages of proposed changes. These changes came about at the request of Mr. Martinez, Parks Board Chair, as a means of accepting feedback from citizens on various issues and communicating Parks and Recreation issues with citizens. He requested receiving suggestions from the Board on an on-going basis to keep the page updated.

Mr. Shaffer asked about the number of web hits the page receives. Mr. Howerton replied that he was unsure if that page was being counted currently but he could recommend it to City staff.

The Board was in agreement about the following updates to the Parks Board web page:

- Buttons (ask the Parks Board a question, share input and/or suggestions with the Parks Board) will be added that will open a form to be filled out by citizens, with the option of including their email address if they want a reply from the Board (required field reply requested)
- Scrolling pictures will be added to page
- Links to Parks and Recreation page will be added on Parks Board page
- Counter to be added to page to record number of hits to web page

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to select Design #3 for use as the new Parks Board page for a 2-month trial basis. Mr. Goodrum seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve Design #3 as the new Parks Board web page layout.

Director's Comments

Information shared as follows:

- Aquatics Update:
 - Flow Rider – Now open and available for rentals
 - Taylor Pool – Will remain open as long as facility will last until such time as it can be replaced by a permanent facility in order to fill service void in that area of Mesa; heaters will be removed and used at Skyline Pool to reduce costs. Non-resident fee swim lesson fee being looked at for next season due to large influx of customers from Gilbert/Chandler area.
- PRCF Director Recruitment – Over 200 applications received, top 8 candidates brought in for meet/greet with staff and to tour facilities. Announcement likely by January meeting.
- Chicago Cubs update – Mesa met with Cubs new owners to show City's desire to keep the Cubs in Mesa. Toured potential sites for new stadium. Will take a public/private partnership to accomplish building a new facility for the Cubs.
- Sales tax update – sales tax dramatically lower than projections. Due to Mesa's substantial deductions made early this year, City had not made additional reductions as are currently being realized in surrounding cities. No adjustments are planned for this time; however, City management is hopeful sales tax will level out soon to avoid further adjustments.

Reports on meetings and/or events attended by Board Members

Tabled for next meeting.

Mr. Martinez asked if there were any other items for discussion; the Board had no additional comments. Mr. Alger made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Ikeda seconded, and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Raines
Deputy City Manager